

# Photo Feature

*Story and photos by  
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Every Air Force member stationed here has seen them around base walking in or out of the BX, at the dining facility or maybe in the post office, but, "What are they doing here?" is the question on most minds.

U.S. Army personnel are stationed here to man Patriot batteries assigned throughout the Korean Peninsula and are here to protect us from theater ballistic missiles, plain and simple.

About 180 soldiers are stationed at Kunsan, making up two of the six Patriot batteries in South Korea, Echo and Foxtrot, according to Army 1st Lt. Opal Hale, Echo site support platoon leader.

People who flew in to Kunsan on the Patriot Express probably looked out the window and noticed the Foxtrot battery.

The batteries share responsibility for watching the sky above Kunsan.

"There's always a rivalry between batteries," said Army Staff Sgt. Telemachus Harrison, Echo launcher section chief. "We also have good camaraderie at the same time."

Soldiers in this career field have three places they can be assigned: Korea, Germany or Fort Bliss, Texas. They are stationed here for one year, just like airmen, but a lot of Army members are extending their assignments.

"People really enjoy it here," said Hale. "They're extending all the time. We enjoy the way the Air Force treats the Army here, plus it's a real world mission we do. It's an excellent training environment."

"People can really learn their job here," added Harrison.

Besides the highly visible launching sites, each battery has what is referred to as the "Big Four." The engagement

## *Poised for protection* *U.S. Army's best professionals* *man Patriot missiles*



control station is maintained by a crew of three and runs the site; the electric power plant powers the Big Four with two 150 kilowatt generators; the antenna mask group runs secure communication links to other sites; and radar stations can track incoming TBMs. When asked how we'd fair against a TBM attack, everyone working at the sites agrees. "We're good to go," said Hale. "We're trained and ready at all times for an attack."

**Patriot missiles are aimed at the skies above Kunsan Air Base ready at all times to knock theater ballistic missiles out of the air.**



**Soldiers from Patriot battalion site Echo work to repair part of the "Big Four." Each Patriot site has an engagement control station, an electric power plant, an antenna mask group and a phased array radar station.**



**The command post for Patriot battery site Echo is manned at all times by a crew of three. Command post workers generally work one 24-hour shift every three days.**